

YOUR CONSERVATION COMMISSION IS WORKING FOR YOU



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The Hanson Conservation Commission is charged with the management of many town owned properties that are designated conservation areas. Nine of these areas provide recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy. Our trails are frequented by hikers, bicyclists, boaters, Cross Country Skiers, Snow Shoers, Bay Circuit Trail through hikers, dog walkers and families out for a stroll. Bird watching, nature study, fishing, wildlife observation, picnics, Nature and History walks are all part what these wonderful areas provide.

These properties cover many acres of forest, former wood lots, colonial era walls, pastures and crop lands, old cranberry bogs, historic sites, meadows, swamps, streams and rivers and lake shore. There are many miles of hiking and walking trails including the Bay Circuit Trail as it crosses the Town of Hanson.

As the Town of Hanson has grown there has been a marked increase in recreational use of these properties. Maintaining the trails and improving access and safety for our community has been a priority throughout 2022. As the demands on our conservation lands has increased our work has grown with it. Over the past year we have spent money from our dedicated Town accounts, and from State and Federal Grants and have spent many hours in the field and in the office working on these projects.



Poor Meadow Brook Trail



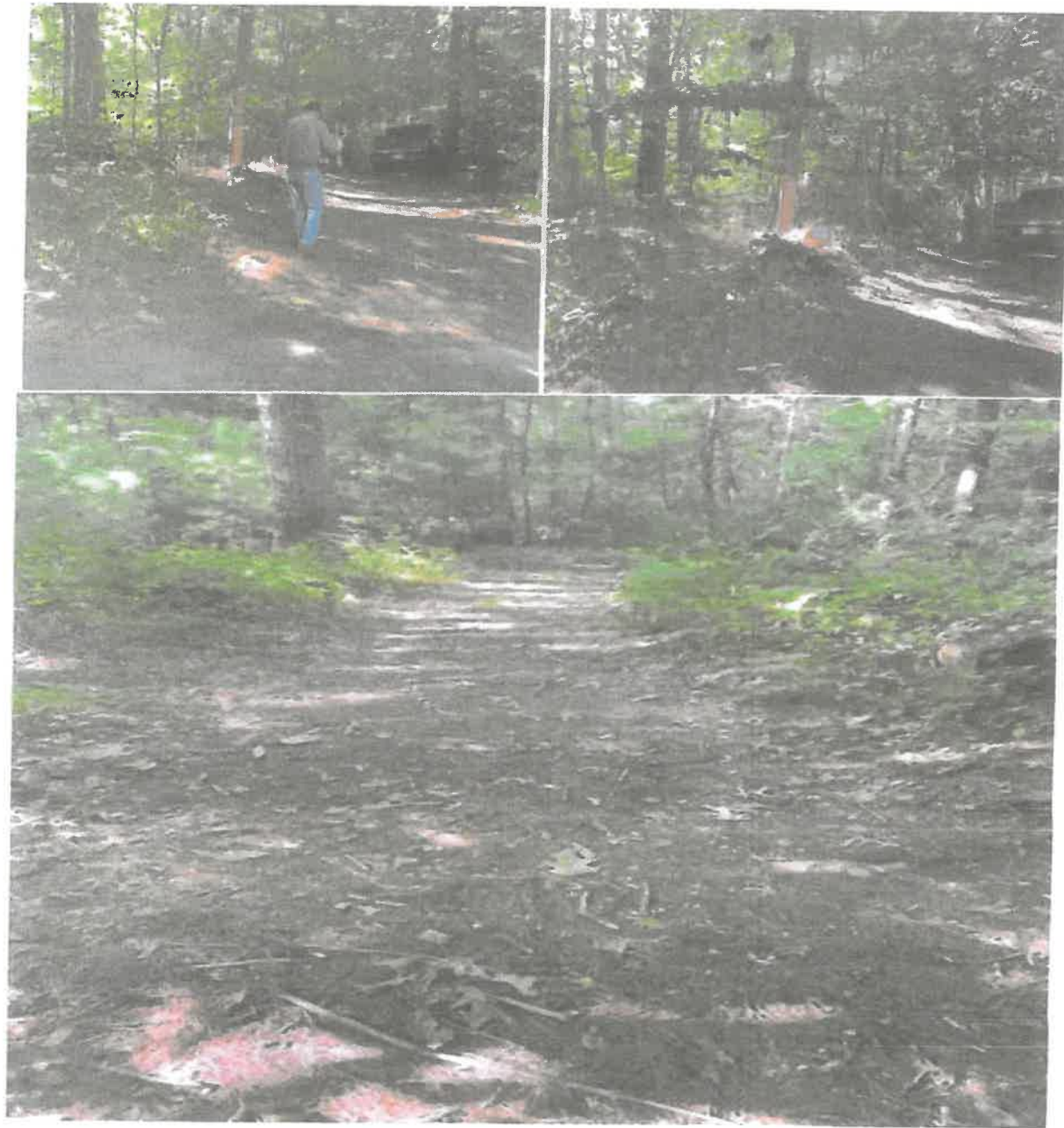
Poor Meadow Brook: Two loop trails constructed with informational signage. New kiosk with informational signage, parking lot regraded and resurfaced. This project was the result of an Eagle Scout Project through the oversight of the ConCom.

Smitty's Bog



Smitty's Bog: Completed current USDA associated project toward restoration of stream flow to Indian Head Pond of Indian Head Brook. Adjustments and removals of various water control structures in order to facilitate fish access and natural restoration of former existing bogs.

Sleeper Conservation Area



Sleeper Conservation Area: Adjacent to Smitty's Bog, this 13+ acre woodlands was acquired by the Town in June of 2022. The commission had worked with Wildlands Trust to complete and submit State required documentation and mapping for placing this property into permanent conservation trust.

Rocky Run



Rocky Run: Worked with Wildlands Trust, North South River Watershed Association, and the Indian Head River Trail coalition on a joint project of improvement to the Indian Head River Trail from Rocky Run to Luddams Ford, Pembroke and along the rail bed returning to South Hanover at Broadway. This project included Kiosks, benches and informational signage at Rocky Run in Hanson. Installed stepping stone river crossing.

Smith-Nawazelski



Smith-Nawazelski: Reshaped, regraded and resurfaced parking lot. Trimmed weeds along Elm Street, around parking area, and along trail to Kiosk.

Park Perimeter Trail/Bay Circuit Trail Relocation



Park Perimeter Trail/Bay Circuit Trail Relocation: Acted on grant for this project by producing bid documents and specification and advertising and receiving bids for project. Contract awarded to clear land on Pierce Avenue for 8 car parking lot and construct approximately 4500' of 6' wide accessible access trail from Pierce Avenue along lower perimeter of the former Plymouth County Hospital Property to the old meadows overlooking Wompatuck Pond. This project is now underway will be completed in the Fall of this year (2022).

Town Forest



Town Forest: Installed three Bog Bridges and one 12' stream crossing bridge. Highway Department has constructed improvements to parking area at the trail head.

Indian Crossway



Indian Crossway: Met with State Fish and Wildlife Managers at Burrage Pond to review property management that includes the Indian Crossway causeway repair and restoration.

Webster-Billings



Webster-Billings: Acquired by the Town of Hanson in 1973, this large woodland is identified on some maps as the Hodor Property (a previous owner). It was renamed in 2009 to honor three conservation-minded residents: Susan K. Webster, and Dana & Norma Billings.



Urann's Boat Ramp: repaired damaged upper section of boat ramp.

Winter Street: Facilitated property acquisition of acreage on Winter Street into Little Cedar Swamp.

Signage: Installation of new signage at trail heads and kiosks at Smitty's Bog, Webster-Billings, Indian Crossway, and Smith-Nawazelski Conservation areas.

Storm Damage Management: The wind storms in October of 2021 caused tremendous tree damage to our trail system requiring cutting, and clearing of approximately 100 trees that were blocking trails parking lots and access. The commissioners were active involved in this work along with the Highway and Water Department. Over the course of several weeks we were able to reopen all of our properties.

Conservation Commission Property Projects of 2021 – 2022

Poor Meadow Brook: Two loop trails constructed with informational signage. New kiosk with informational signage, parking lot regraded and resurfaced. This project was the result of an Eagle Scout Project through the oversight of the ConCom.

Rocky Run: New stepping stone stream crossing installed, old mud and root bound crossing removed in order to improve safety for hikers and improve water flow and fish access.

Smitty's Bog: Vehicle access gate installed and concrete barriers installed to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the upper bogs area.

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